

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data providing apparatus includes an input unit which inputs printing data, a setting unit which sets a selection condition, an acquiring unit which is  
5 connected to a network, and acquires a plurality of status information concerning a plurality of image forming apparatuses on the network, a selection unit which calculates evaluation of the plurality of image forming apparatuses on the basis of the selection  
10 condition and the plurality of status information, and selects one image forming apparatus according to the calculation result, and a transfer unit which transfers the printing data input by the input unit in order to provide the printing data to the one image forming  
15 apparatus selected by the selection unit. Data can be automatically provided to the optimum image forming apparatus on the network.